



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
June 25, 2015

For More Information, Contact:
Mandy Slag
Division of Injury Prevention and Control
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.4536
E-mail: mslag@nd.gov

North Dakota Department of Health Offers Fireworks Safety Tips

BISMARCK, N.D. –Many North Dakotans enjoy private fireworks at their homes or in their neighborhoods over the Independence Day holiday. During their celebrations, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) reminds North Dakotans to avoid fireworks related injuries.

“While the Fourth of July is a time for family gatherings and fun, adult supervision is essential to keeping children safe during this holiday and throughout the year,” said Mandy Slag, Injury Prevention Program Director. “Remember, safety is the number one priority to help make it an enjoyable holiday for everyone.”

According to the U.S. Product Safety Commission, two hundred people are injured each day in fireworks-related accidents around the Fourth of July holiday. Common injuries include serious burns and harm to the eyes and hands, and even death. Sensible precautions can greatly reduce the risks of using fireworks.

Follow these safety tips when handling fireworks:

- Make sure fireworks are legal where you live before buying or using them
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions
- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks
- Make sure people are out of range before lighting fireworks
- Light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house and flammable materials
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of a malfunction or fire
- Never relight fireworks that have not fully ignited
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back to a safe distance immediately
- Use extreme care when approaching a firework that has malfunctioned or not ignited

For more information about fireworks safety, contact Mandy Slag, North Dakota Department of Health, at 800.472.2286 (press 1) or visit our website at www.ndhealth.gov/injury/.

-30-

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.